

## Florenceville Elementary School

### **1. Special events that encourage Community School Partnerships – *examples of this might be Family Literacy Nights, Career Fair, local business partnerships, etc.***

- Home and School Association:
  - connections are very strong in this school. The H & S has introduced a Spring Fling which brings families together to participate in various activities.
  - various fundraisers to assist with projects around the school. The latest project is updating our playground (gaga ball pit, new baby barn for playground equipment, playground equipment). School is moving toward a natural playground and the H & S are supporting it with money and in-kind donations (labour).
  - Christmas Brunch- community members come in to provide a Christmas brunch for our students.
- Outdoor Learning Centre- “Plantopia” was created with various grants over the past several years. In the Spring of 2019, we received an Edible Tree grant from Tree Canada and Brick Furniture. We hosted a family tree planting evening in May, 2019.
- Muddy Boots Learning Centre: This originally began as a partnership with the town of Florenceville-Bristol, FES and district support. It is in close proximity to the school and has resulted in more frequent trips.
- Ducks Unlimited- the school has connected with them to offer the grade 4 program at Muddy Boots Learning Centre. Area schools visit Muddy Boots and often use our facilities as well as our extra boots, raincoats that are housed at the school for visitors.
- Artist in Residence grants- In the spring of 2019, Victoria Hutt partnered with grade 2 classroom and incorporated outdoor learning and photography in art. The school has also participated in several of these grants over the years.
- ArtSmart grants- FES has participated has been successful in securing these grants over the years. It has resulted in various members of the community sharing their talents with our students.
- Outdoor Vegetable gardens: our very active student GAIA club and other students plant vegetables in the spring. During the summer months, our school community follows a calendar to care for vegetables/edible trees. In the fall, the vegetables are harvested and shared with students for recess snacks.
- “AG in the Classroom”- this was a community connection through Falls Brook Centre and learning was integrated into classroom activities with grade 2 classroom teachers.

- BioBlitz- Nature NB partnered with the school at Muddy Boots Learning Centres to learn about biodiversity (whole school activity).
- Orange Shirt Day/First Nations Connection- Carol Polchies, from Woodstock First Nation, visits at least yearly to bring awareness to National Tree Day, Orange Shirt Day and oral storytelling.
- Drama- community members volunteer their time each year to direct a drama performance for the public. This involves students in grades 3-5 and last year involved almost 50 students.
- Music Festival- our school regularly performs at the Music Festival in our region at Carleton North High School.
- Christmas Concerts- our school holds an annual concert for families. All students perform. We also have a K-2 and 3-5 choir that performs additional acts.
- Remembrance Day Ceremonies- we hold a yearly Remembrance Day ceremony. Members of the public are invited to attend and members of the Colour Guard attend each year.
- Shriners- our school collects aluminum tabs that are then donated to the Shriners. The Shriners visit our school at bi-annually for a presentation of the tables.
- Breakfast Program- close to 100 students visit daily. We have many community connections with over 60 volunteers throughout the month (various church groups, businesses in the area).
- McCain- over the years we have had many connections with McCain. Currently, we have an active Reading Buddies program, as well as their various investments in hydroponics grow units.
- ELF program- in the past we have had several community volunteers visit our school to take part in the ELF reading program.
- Christmas Readers: host yearly celebration of readers with male readers from various businesses/church groups.
- Florenceville-Bristol Recreation Council- We have partnered with the town for Wellness Week activities. The students visit the River Valley Gymnastics gym and we also bring in Rocks and Rings through our wellness grants and connections to the town.
- Florenceville-Bristol Town- The school has recycling bins (large blue bins) on school property. They are funded by the town in an effort to promote a green community with our students.

- Scholastic Book Fair/Science East: In October, we will be having a Family Fun Night, where students can visit a Scholastic Book Fair and Science East will also be visiting.
- WISP Program (Writers in the Schools)- we have partnerships with various authors and have invited them in yearly to deliver the WISP program.
- Hackmatack- This is a book club that we take part in each year. We partner with the Andrew and Laura McCain library as part of this project.
- Fred Fox- Terry Fox's brother will be visiting our school in early October to deliver an inspiring message.
- TNB/ Calithumpians- these various theatre groups come to our school each year to perform.
- Food Bank/Farm Credit Corporation- the Food Bank is a connection for our own breakfast program. We give back each year through the Farm Credit Canada program by participating in a food drive at the school.
- Roots of Empathy- over the years we have had members of the community (Roots of Empathy facilitators and Roots babies) attend classrooms for an empathy program.
- Earth Day Celebrations- we have invited various guest speakers in to speak of the importance of caring for our Earth.
- Multicultural Fair- Love your Neighbour Event. As a wellness activity, we had each classroom partner with a parent or community member from a different country.
- Andrew and Laura McCain Gallery- we have participated in various field trips and invited their artists to lead art clubs (during lunch hour).
- Annual Volunteer Breakfast- students and staff provide a breakfast for the many volunteers that have assisted with programming in our school throughout the year. We serve between 75-100 volunteers.

**2. Student Voice – *examples of this might be a list of student led activities, student forums, Think Tank, etc.***

- GAIA- we have a very active GAIA club. Our school recycles and composts and the students are completely in charge of the sorting, organizing, cleaning, etc. They meet weekly and share their knowledge through student videos, assemblies.
- Student Leadership- this is our third year of a Student Leadership group. Students work on projects around the school (creating awareness and sharing their knowledge). They do a yearly trip to the Bath Manor at Christmas time to visit with the residents.
- Fox Dens- this initiative is in its second year. Students are mixed across-grade levels and are put into Dens with a den leader (teacher, administrator, etc.). The goal is for students to have many connections outside their classroom teacher/classmates. A focus is social-emotional learning.
- Interest Surveys- teachers ask students to complete interest surveys so they can ascertain how best to support them at our school (classrooms, playground)
- Global Competency Project – student entrepreneurial project: various classes participated in this last year. Students were given choice as to a cause and product to create and sell. The profits were donated to a cause/charity of their choice.
- Video announcements- students participate in sharing the announcements, birthday, special events at the school by using green screen technology and playing the announcements through classroom smartboards.
- School TV monitor- highlights pictures of what kids are doing throughout the school. Some students have been trained to change the pictures on the screen.
- Kudos awards- Friday morning phone calls recognizing good acts around the school. These are made by administration and a picture is placed in the front lobby of the student and their good deed.
- Trivia Night- this is a partnership with the town. Interested students in grades 4 and 5 participate in a trivia competition against Bristol Elementary. The winner gets a giant trophy!
- Meduxnekeag Showcase- in partnership with the Meduxnekeag River Association, students complete projects. We have over 70 percent participation in the showcase each year and are often recognized for the quality of the projects.

- Student clubs: We have a variety of noonhour clubs that are offered throughout the year. These include: choir, chess, minecraft, track and field, Hackmattack, yoga, board games.

**3. School Benefits – *examples of this might be strong knowledge of all students’ strengths and needs by all staff, Core Leadership Team, etc.***

- French Immersion feeder school- we are able to embrace diversity/ other languages. We have many francophone teachers and many students are truly immersed in learning another language.
- Diversity- we are a multicultural school community because of McCain Technology Centre/IBM. We have invited our school community of various occasions to share their culture/cooking.
- Staff Teaming- all staff are part of a committee of their interest. They meet monthly to undertake certain initiatives around the school. These include Wellness, Core Leadership, GAIA/Outdoor Learning, and STEAM.
- Outdoor Learning/natural playground- we are so fortunate to have had many community sponsors to help enhance our outdoor learning spaces. Our teachers are committed to inquiry-based, hands-on learning and our students use our outdoor spaces (Plantopia) on a regular basis.
- Community School Coordinator- Valerie Carmichael, our Community School Coordinator, is an invaluable part of our learning community. She has very strong community connections and assists us in many endeavours.
- Home and School- our association is a strong group and are very supportive of our teachers and our school. They work diligently to make FES a wonderful learning experience for all students.
- PSSC- we have a large and very interested group. It is a diverse group with many different perspectives. They are professional and supportive.
- Professional Learning- we have many staff members who are constantly learning. They take advantage of different learning opportunities (afterschool learning, conferences). Currently we have 10 staff members who are participating in a book study on hands-on, engaged learning, working toward common goal at our school- creating a Makerspace.
- Flexible Seating- we have received various grants and used school money to create flexible seating options for all classrooms. Our school understands the importance of all students being comfortable and adapting classrooms to student needs.

- SORA pilot school (provincial e-library)- FES is a pilot school for the provincial e-library. Our students have access to thousands of titles in both French and English at both home and school.
- Support for beginning teachers- this year the administration has created teacher mentorships between early career teachers and veteran teachers. We also have monthly meetings to collaborate and share tips and strategies to support teachers as they begin this rewarding profession.
- Proximity to outdoor learning spaces- FES is strengthened by our proximity to Plantopia, the NB Trail and Muddy Boots Learning Centre.

**4. School Challenges – *examples of this might be teacher teaming opportunities are sometimes challenging due to schedules, facilities issues, chronic absenteeism, space, etc.***

Space:

- Although we have 4 portable classrooms, FES is still tight for space. Although we have one multi-purpose classroom, it is often used by the various stakeholders that visit our school. We have many volunteers (community volunteers, ELF program), as well as Speech Language Pathologist, EAL Tutor, as well as members of the Child and Youth team. We are often scrambling to find spaces for these people to work.

Gym:

- Our gym is very small and is in the middle of the school. People have to travel through the gym to get to classrooms on the other side of the school. It is difficult to offer intramural programs as the gym is always being used for Phys. Ed classes (too small to combine classes). The gym is not used by the community as the facility is not large enough to host sports events.

Kitchen facilities:

- The kitchen is used mainly for our school's breakfast program. We have also been given the opportunity to use Rosemary McCain money for hot lunch programs, but we have had to be inventive with our kitchen facilities/ no cafeteria. Last year, the food for the program was prepared elsewhere and then brought back to the school and served by parent volunteers.

Afterschool programming:

- Difficult to provide afterschool programs because of busing. FES is a rural school and most students travel by bus. We are limited with the amount of enrichment programs we are able to offer as we feel it would create inequities to only offer program to those students who could be picked up. We mostly offer all programs within the school day (lunchhour/third recess) so that all students have access.